

1. A picture frame comprising:

a. at least three elongated members in close proximity at corners to define a closed frame, each joint member having a visible surface;

b. at least one joint piece incorporated in at least one of the corners of the frame, each joint piece having a visible surface;

c. a corner connecting means which secures each joint piece adjoining elongated members.

to
w

2. The apparatus of claim 1 where the of the visible surface of the joint pieces is different from the visible surface of the elongated members.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 where the joint piece is formed as a single, unitary part

4. The apparatus of claim 1 where each joint piece is adapted to receive terminal ends of elongated members therein.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 where more than one joint piece per corner is provided.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 where each joint piece has substantially the same cross section as the elongated members.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 where there are two joint pieces per corner, which joint pieces are mirror images of one another.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 where the joint pieces are each parallelograms.

9. A method of framing a picture comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing the apparatus of claim 1; and
 - b. installing artwork to be framed and attaching corner connecting means to hold the frame together in such order as is appropriate for the material of construction.

10. The method of claim 9 where, in step B, three sides of the frame are assembled forming a U-shaped apparatus with an open end, the artwork is installed therein, and the fourth side is attached completing the rectangular frame.

11. The method of claim 9, where the rectangular frame is first assembled and all four sides are attached, then the artwork to be installed is installed from the back, and attaching means are activated to hold the artwork in place.

12. The method of claim 9 where the of the visible surface of the joint pieces is different from the visible surface of the elongated members.

13. The method of claim 10 where each joint piece is a single unitary part.

14. The method of claim 10 where each joint piece is adapted to receive terminal ends of elongated members therein.

15. The method of claim 10 where more than one joint piece per corner is provided.

16. The method of claim 13 where each joint piece has substantially the same cross section as the elongated members.

17. The method of claim 14 where there are two joint pieces per corner, which joint pieces are mirror images of one another.

18. The method of claim 15 where the joint pieces are each parallelograms.

19. A method of framing a picture in a rectangular frame comprising the steps of:
- a. providing for elongated members having a width W ;
 - b. providing at least one corner piece with a width W times the square root of 2; and
 - c. installing artwork to be framed and attaching corner connecting means to hold the frame together.

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20. A method of retrofitting an existing picture frame comprising the steps of:

- a. disassembling the frame into a plurality of elongated members;
- b. selecting at least one corner joint piece which is compatible with the elongated members, and which provides appropriate dimensional allowances and gives the appropriate appearance;
- c. installing artwork to be framed and attaching corner connecting means to hold the frame together.

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